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Erie Canalway News Release

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Upstate New York Representatives Join Bipartisan Congressional Caucus Focused on Heritage Development

WATERFORD, NY – Representatives Richard Hanna (NY-24) and Louise Slaughter (NY-28) recently joined the bi-partisan National Heritage Area Congressional Caucus co-chaired by Representatives Paul Tonko (NY-21) and Charles Dent (PA-15). The caucus helps facilitate improved cooperation and information sharing among members of Congress interested in the economic, cultural, historic, environmental, and community development work of the 49 national heritage areas around the country. Portions of Representative Hanna and Slaughter’s districts are located within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, one of four national heritage areas in New York State.

“We are very pleased that Representatives Slaughter and Hanna understand the value of heritage development here in upstate New York and have signed on to give national heritage areas the stronger voice they need in Washington,” said [Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor](#) Executive Director Beth Sciumeca.

"I want to thank Congresswoman Slaughter and Congressman Hanna for joining our bi-partisan National Heritage Area Caucus," said Congressman Paul Tonko. "Their cooperation and commitment will strengthen our efforts to provide the resources that will allow our Heritage Areas to thrive. Our heritage areas serve as an economic engine for many communities across New York, and add a richness to our quality of life that we must preserve and protect."

"I'm delighted to join the National Heritage Area Congressional Caucus to continue preserving the natural and historical wonders that make Western New York so unique," said

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, who supported legislation that created that Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in 2000. "This Corridor provides Western New York with miles of walking and cycling paths as well as opportunities to explore the local history through museums, science centers and waterfront parks. In my hometown of Fairport, we are fortunate enough to have the historic Fairport Lift Bridge, an operational relic of the Erie Canal, and a constant reminder of our region's ingenuity and innovation in cross-state infrastructure. Between this treasure in my backyard along with the canal connecting Albany to Buffalo and the spectacular views and museums that line the way, it's clear that preserving these wonders is a worthy priority."

"I am proud to join the National Heritage Area Caucus to promote these unique organizations dedicated to preserving and promoting our historical assets for future generations," said Congressman Richard Hanna. "I look forward to working with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in my District as it continues to help revitalize Upstate New York through cost-effective public-private partnerships."

National heritage areas leverage millions of dollars for heritage development by capitalizing on the unique historic, cultural, and natural assets of each area as a base for economic revitalization and tourism. They are currently supported through the Department of Interior's National Heritage Area Program, one of the federal government's most effective and cost-efficient programs.

National heritage areas are currently located in 32 states, from New England to Alaska. New York's national heritage areas include: [Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor](#), [Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area](#), [Niagara Falls National Heritage Area](#), and [Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership](#).

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